

## Securities and Exchange Commission

## § 200.22

has determined that separation of function requirements or other circumstances would make inappropriate the exercise of such functions by the General Counsel. In the cases described in clause (2), the Executive Assistant to the Chairman exercises such functions. The General Counsel deals with general problems arising under the Administrative Procedure Act, including the revision or adoption of rules of practice. The General Counsel is also responsible for the exercise of such review functions with respect to adjudicatory matters as are delegated to him or her by the Commission pursuant to 101 Stat. 1254 (15 U.S.C. 78d-1, 78d-2) or as may be otherwise delegated or assigned to him or her.

(c) The General Counsel also is responsible to the Commission for the administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for publicly certifying, pursuant to § 200.406, that, in his or her opinion, particular Commission meetings may properly be closed to the public. In the absence of the General Counsel, the Solicitor to the Commission shall be deemed the General Counsel for purposes of § 200.406. In the absence of the General Counsel and the Solicitor, the most senior Associate General Counsel available shall be deemed the General Counsel for purposes of § 200.406. In the absence of the General Counsel, the Solicitor, and every Associate General Counsel, the most senior Assistant General Counsel available shall be deemed the General Counsel for purposes of § 200.406. In the absence of the General Counsel, the Solicitor, every Associate General Counsel and every Assistant General Counsel, such attorneys as the General Counsel may designate (in such order of succession as the General Counsel directs) shall exercise the responsibilities imposed by § 200.406.

[43 FR 13376, Mar. 30, 1978, as amended at 47 FR 26821, June 22, 1982; 47 FR 37077, Aug. 25, 1982; 49 FR 12685, Mar. 30, 1984; 49 FR 13866, Apr. 9, 1984; 50 FR 12240, Mar. 28, 1985; 54 FR 18100, Apr. 27, 1989; 54 FR 24331, June 7, 1989; 60 FR 14626, Mar. 20, 1995; 69 FR 13174, Mar. 19, 2004]

### § 200.21a The Ethics Counsel.

(a) The Ethics Counsel within the Office of the General Counsel of the Com-

mission shall oversee compliance with subpart M of this part and 5 CFR part 2635. When appropriate and subject to the authority of, and in consultation with, the Inspector General, the Ethics Counsel shall inquire into alleged violations of subparts C, F, and M of this part, and 5 CFR part 2635.

(b) Subject to the oversight of the General Counsel or his or her delegate, the Ethics Counsel shall:

(1) Receive and review allegations of misconduct by a Commission employee.

(2) Refer matters involving management questions to Division Directors, Office Heads, District Administrators, or Regional Directors, and matters involving alleged or apparent employee misconduct to the Office of the Inspector General, except for matters involving alleged professional misconduct ultimately referable to state professional boards or societies.

(3) Refer complaints that appear to involve a violation of Federal criminal statutes, and do not appear to be frivolous, to the Inspector General for referral to the Department of Justice under 28 U.S.C. 535.

(4) Act as liaison with the Office of the Inspector General on matters that the Ethics Counsel has referred to that Office, and with state or local authorities on matters that, on occasion, the Ethics Counsel may refer to them.

(5) Arrange for the review of proposed publications and prepared speeches under § 200.735-4(e).

(6) Provide advice, counseling, interpretations, and opinions with respect to subparts C, F, and M of this part, and 5 CFR part 2635.

(7) Oversee investigations and refer findings of professional misconduct to state professional boards or societies.

(8) Draft rules and regulations as necessary to implement the Commission's Ethics Program.

[60 FR 14626, Mar. 20, 1995]

### § 200.22 The Chief Accountant.

The Chief Accountant of the Commission is the principal adviser to the Commission on, and is responsible to the Commission for, all accounting and auditing matters arising in the administration of the federal securities laws.

## § 200.23a

The Chief Accountant oversees the accounting profession's standard-setting and self-regulatory organizations, develops or supervises the development of accounting and auditing rules, regulations, opinions and policy, and interprets Commission accounting policy and positions. The Chief Accountant is responsible for recommending the institution of administrative and disciplinary proceedings relating to the disqualification of accountants to practice before the Commission. The Chief Accountant supervises the procedures to be followed in the Commission's enforcement activities involving accounting and auditing issues and helps resolve differences on accounting issues between registrants and the Commission staff.

[60 FR 14626, Mar. 20, 1995]

## § 200.23a Office of Economic Analysis.

The Office of Economic Analysis is responsible for providing an objective economic perspective to understand and evaluate the economic dimension of the Commission's regulatory oversight. It performs economic analyses of proposed rule changes, current or proposed policies, and capital market developments and offers advice on the basis of these analyses. The Office also assists the Commission's enforcement effort by applying economic analysis and statistical tools to issues raised in enforcement cases. It reviews certifications and initial and final regulatory flexibility analyses prepared by the operating divisions under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

[60 FR 14627, Mar. 20, 1995]

## § 200.23b [Reserved]

## § 200.24 Office of the Comptroller.

This Office, under the direction of the Associate Executive Director of the Office of the Comptroller, is responsible to the Executive Director, Chairman and Commission for the internal financial management and programming functions of the Securities and Exchange Commission. These functions include: budgeting, accounting, payroll and administrative audit. The Associate Executive Director of the Office of the Comptroller, and his or her designees,

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serve as liaison to the Commission before the Office of Management and Budget and Congressional Appropriations Committees on appropriation matters, and the Treasury Department and the General Accounting Office on financial and programming matters.

(11 U.S.C. 901, 1109(a))

[49 FR 12685, Mar. 30, 1984, as amended at 60 FR 14627, Mar. 20, 1995]

## § 200.24a Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs.

The Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs is responsible to the Chairman for the Commission's investor education and consumer protection program. The program includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Presenting seminars and instructional programs to educate investors about the securities markets and their rights as investors; preparing and distributing to the public materials describing the operations of the securities markets, prudent investor behavior, and the rights of investors in disputes they may have with individuals and entities regulated by the Commission; and increasing public knowledge of the functions of the Commission.

(b) Implementing and administering a nationwide system for resolving investor complaints against individuals and entities regulated by the Commission by processing complaints received from individual investors and assuring that regulated individual and entities process and respond to such complaints.

(c) Providing information to investors who inquire about individuals and entities regulated by the Commission, the operation of the securities markets, or the functions of the Commission.

(d) Advising the Commission and its staff about problems frequently encountered by investors and possible solutions to them.

(e) Transmitting to other offices and divisions of the Commission information provided by investors which concerns the responsibilities of these offices and divisions.